

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4765

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13180

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, IBRD, UK

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IBRD/IMF DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 195763

1. SIR RICHARD (DICK) KING IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. DICK KING HAS A REALISTIC, CREATIVE APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD MAKE HIM AN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE FOR POSITION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BANK/FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. HE WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH THE FORMER ODM MINISTER, JUDITH HART, IN FORMULATING THE REORIENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ODM WHICH SHIFTED THE FOCUS TO AID FOR THE POOREST SECTORS OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES. WHILE NOT THE PRIME THEORETICIAN, HE WAS WIDELY APPLAUDED WITHIN UK DEVELOPMENT CIRCLES FOR THE IMAGINATIVE WAY IN WHICH HE DEVELOPED THE INITIATIVE AND QUICKLY RESTRUCTURED THE MINISTRY TO ENABLE IT TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY INTO THESE NEW AREAS.

2. KING IS WIDELY RESPECTED AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE WHITEHALL BUREAUCRACY FOR, INTER ALIA, THE WAY HE HAS SURPRISINGLY MANAGED TO DEFEND ODM'S BUDGETARY POSITION AT A TIME WHEN ALMOST EVERY OTHER MINISTRY HAS BEEN FORCED TO TAKE SUBSTANTIAL CUTS. HIS LOW-KEY, SEEMINGLY UNFLAPPABLE APPROACH TO
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MANAGEMENT, OFTEN TESTIFIED TO BY HIS STAFF, WOULD, IN

OUR JUDGMENT, ENABLE HIM TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE
COMPLEX, BUREAUCRATIC FUNCTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. WE RECOMMEND USG SUPPORT FOR HIS
CANDIDACY.

ARMSTRONG

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